

***INTERNATIONAL SECURITY UPDATE******June 11 - 25, 2015***

1. [New U.S. Humanitarian Assistance to Respond to Syria Crisis](#) (06-25-2015)
2. [Dempsey Discusses ISIL, Russia at Facebook Town Hall](#) (06-24-2015)
3. [Carter: NATO's Unity 'Critical' for Future Challenges](#) (06-23-2015)
4. [State's Kaidanow on 2014 Country Reports on Terrorism](#) (06-19-2015)
5. [Special Report: Operation Atlantic Resolve](#) (06-19-2015)
6. [Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism 2015 Plenary Meeting: Joint Co-Chair Statement](#) (06-17-2015)
7. [U.S.-Republic of Korea \(R.O.K.\) Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation](#) (06-16-2015)
8. [Iraqis get more help to combat Daesh](#) (06-15-2015)
9. [Ukraine remains resilient and resolute](#) (06-12-2015)
10. [G7 countries united on keeping nuclear weapons from Iran](#) (06-12-2015)
11. [Biden's Meetings with Iraqi Speaker Salim al-Jabouri](#) (06-12-2015)
12. [Iraq Troop Increase Part of Broader Coalition Strategy](#) (06-12-2015)

-----

**1. [New U.S. Humanitarian Assistance to Respond to Syria Crisis](#) (06-25-2015)****Fact Sheet**

---

The United States today announced more than \$360 million in additional life-saving assistance for those affected by the war in Syria. This announcement was made by U.S. National Security Advisor Susan Rice at a White House event marking World Refugee Day. This new funding brings the total U.S. humanitarian assistance in response to this conflict to more than \$1.1 billion in Fiscal Year 2015 and over \$4 billion since the fighting began in 2011.

The funding supports the operations of the United Nations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as well as other international and non-governmental organizations. It will provide shelter, water, medical care, food, protection, and other necessities to millions of people suffering inside Syria and nearly four million refugees from Syria in the region. It also aids governments and communities throughout the region that are straining to cope with the mass influx of refugees from Syria.

The new funding will partially respond to the 2015 appeals of \$8.4 billion from the United Nations for Syria and the region. Unfortunately, even with the contribution we are announcing today, the UN appeal remains severely unfunded. The suffering and the needs of the Syrian people continue to

mount to levels once unthinkable. In 2015, humanitarian needs are only likely to grow. As the Assad regime continues to indiscriminately barrel bomb cities and attack civilian targets, including schools, mosques, and hospitals, violent extremist groups like ISIL and al-Nusrah Front also continue to brutalize Syrians every day.

The United States recognizes that, along with emergency relief, we must address the long-term development needs of Syria's neighbors—shoring up health care and education systems, and economies overwhelmed by the millions of Syrian refugees. We have longstanding development assistance programs to help address these priorities, and part of our funding also supports projects that benefit refugee-hosting communities throughout the region.

The United States remains committed to assisting those affected by this terrible war and strongly urges all governments, organizations, and individuals concerned about the situation to support life-saving aid efforts of the UN and other partners.

### **Further highlights:**

#### **UNHCR: More than \$131.3 million**

UNHCR leads the refugee response in the region—the largest refugee assistance operation in the world—and provides both immediate support to new refugees and continuous support to vulnerable refugees. UNHCR also works with other UN agencies to assist persons in need inside Syria. The funding will allow UNHCR to continue providing refugees and internally-displaced persons with shelter, protection (including registration, child protection, gender-based violence prevention and response, and psychosocial support), and daily necessities, either in-kind, such as blankets, bedding, and cooking utensils, or through cash assistance. UNHCR's efforts serve refugees in camps, but increasingly are focused on assistance to non-camp refugees and host communities. In various locations throughout the region, in addition to the above, UNHCR also works in the areas of education, health care, and employment support.

#### **UNICEF: More than \$53.3 million**

Syria's children are paying the heaviest toll in the conflict. They constitute half of Syria's refugees and internally displaced persons. Inside Syria, two million children are out of school and one of every five schools has been damaged. As a result, many Syrian children in the country have little or no access to educational opportunities, and those arriving in neighboring countries as refugees are behind in schooling. Today's announcement will allow UNICEF to continue its child protection, education, and water and sanitation programs throughout the region, demonstrating the United States' strong support of the UNICEF-led No Lost Generation initiative to invest in the future of the region.

#### **Funding Numbers by Organization**

Organization	This Announcement	New Total – Since FY 2012
UNHCR	\$131 million	\$1.046 billion
WFP	\$2 million	\$1.171 billion
NGOs	\$114 million	\$948 million
UNICEF	\$53 million	\$354 million

UNRWA	\$13 million	\$260 million
ICRC	\$35 million	\$138 million
Other International Organizations		\$53 million
IOM	\$6 million	\$32 million
UNFPA	\$2 million	\$28 million
OCHA	\$3 million	\$10 million
Other (admin)	\$0.2 million	\$7 million
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 360 million</b>	<b>\$4.046 billion</b>

\*Figures are rounded to the nearest million and may not sum to total due to rounding

### **U.S. Humanitarian Assistance for the Syria Crisis, By Country**

**INSIDE SYRIA:** More than \$180 million. New total since FY 2012: \$2.01 billion

U.S. humanitarian assistance has provided critical, life-saving support to more than five million people across Syria. The new U.S. contribution will support life-saving emergency medical care, funding for shelters, water, and sanitation and hygiene projects to help those affected by the crisis. It will also provide critical relief supplies and much-needed counseling and protection programs to help the most vulnerable, including children, women, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.

**LEBANON:** More than \$77 million. New total since FY 2012: \$869 million\*

The UN estimates that Lebanon is the highest per capita refugee hosting country in the world. The number of refugees from Syria currently living in Lebanon includes approximately 45,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria. Approximately half live in Palestinian refugee camps that were overcrowded even before the influx from Syria, with few resources and limited opportunities to improve their situation. Additional U.S. support to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Lebanon provides much-needed aid, including cash, relief supplies, education, and medical care, to Palestinian refugees from Syria in camps and other communities.

Today's announcement increases support to both refugees and host communities. With the additional funding, the UN and international organization partners in Lebanon can continue to deliver shelter assistance, education, healthcare, cash assistance for emergency needs, and basic relief items like blankets, heaters, and hygiene kits. The UN is also using efficient electronic cards to distribute aid and reach more people in need.

The additional U.S. funding will also support vulnerable Lebanese communities hosting refugees by rehabilitating the municipal water and sanitation systems, supporting local community centers and health clinics, and improving school facilities.

**JORDAN:** Nearly \$47 million. New total since FY 2012: \$603 million\*

In Jordan, over 80 percent of Syrian refugees live in Jordanian towns and cities outside of refugee camps. Our support to Syrian refugees in Jordan through cash assistance to cover refugees' basic

needs and shelter costs ensures refugees don't have to resort to desperate efforts to earn money, such as sending children to work instead of going to school. This funding also goes toward improving school facilities so that all children, including those with disabilities, can access the education they need and deserve. For the nearly 80,000 children who cannot be accommodated in public schools, this funding seeks to enhance their opportunity to engage in educational activities in child and adolescent-friendly spaces and to provide them with the psychosocial support they need to recover from the trauma suffered in Syria.

U.S. funding also includes support to UNRWA for the needs of nearly 15,000 Palestinian refugees in Jordan who have fled the conflict in Syria, helping with access to health care, educational services, and cash assistance for essential needs.

**TURKEY:** Nearly \$32 million. New total since FY 2012: \$291 million\*

U.S. funding assists Turkey in addressing the humanitarian and protection needs of Syrian refugees in Turkish urban areas, host communities, and camps. Funding to UNHCR will provide greater psychosocial support and prevention of gender based violence; tents, blankets, and kitchen sets; targeted support to particularly vulnerable refugees; and technical support to government authorities. Funding for UNICEF helps build additional schools, pay teachers' stipends to provide quality education, and provide programming for children that emphasizes life skills and raises awareness on landmines. The World Food Program provides refugees with electronic food cards that allow families living in camps to purchase nutritious food items to meet their daily needs. The World Health Organization coordinates the regional emergency health response to communicable diseases and will strengthen primary health care and disease surveillance, prevention, and response. Additionally, this funding will increase the number of social workers, child development specialists, psychologists and interpreters in refugee camps, as well as in the 11 provinces hosting Syrian refugees.

**IRAQ:** \$18 million. New total since FY 2012: \$183 million\*

In Iraq, the Kurdistan Regional Government hosts 96 percent of Syrian refugees in the country, and has provided more than 2,000 square miles of land for the establishment of 11 camp and transit sites. This new funding will be used to repair health centers, expand schools, and improve water sanitation systems in the community. Other funding will go towards initiatives targeting women and girls, to provide vocational and language training, general literacy training, and reproductive health.

**EGYPT:** Nearly \$7 million. New total since FY 2012: \$84 million\*

The increased funding will provide assistance to Syrian refugees who continue to face significant challenges as urban refugees in Egypt. The U.S. contribution will assist humanitarian partners in expanding assistance in major refugee-hosting cities such as Cairo and Alexandria with community-focused projects for refugees and host families in an effort to address the deteriorating protection environment. Assistance will also target prevention of and responsiveness to gender-based violence, protection and education for children, increased self-reliance and livelihood opportunities, distribution of food vouchers, and improved access to health care services.

\*Figures are rounded to the nearest million.

### Funding Numbers by Country

Country	This Announcement	Total – Since FY 2012
---------	-------------------	-----------------------

Inside Syria	\$180 million	\$2.008 billion
Lebanon	\$77 million	\$869 million
Jordan	\$47 million	\$603 million
Turkey	\$32 million	\$291 million
Iraq	\$18 million	\$183 million
Egypt	\$7 million	\$84 million
Regional		\$ 8 million
TOTAL	\$360 million	\$4.046 billion

\*Figures are rounded to the nearest million and may not sum to total due to rounding

For more detailed information on the U.S. Government's response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, please visit: [www.usaid.gov/crisis/syria](http://www.usaid.gov/crisis/syria).

## **2. Dempsey Discusses ISIL, Russia at Facebook Town Hall** (06-24-2015)

By Jim Garamone

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff discussed the threats facing the United States and its allies during his fifth Facebook town hall this morning.

Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey received many questions about the U.S. strategy to combat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

He wrote that the United States is serious about confronting the ISIL threat, and that the strategy is about working through a network of partners in the region.

“As I’ve said before, western military forces will not be the decisive factor in defeating ISIL within Arab countries,” Dempsey said. “We can and will help our partners, but lasting success will only come when the Sunni populations of the region reject ISIL’s corrupt, extremist and brutal ideology.”

The chairman said he’s spent much of the last 25 years in the Middle East, beginning with service in Operation Desert Storm, continuing through duty in Saudi Arabia, command of the 1st Armored Division in Iraq, command of the Multinational Security Transition Command-Iraq and culminating as the acting commander of U.S. Central Command.

“My experience leads me to believe that it will take at least a generation to overcome the many challenges there,” he said. “It’s unfortunate, and many in the region suffer as a result of the internal conflict between moderate and radical Muslims.”

### **Arab Partners Must ‘Own the Fight’ Against ISIL**

Arab partners must “own the fight,” the chairman said.

The chairman also responded to a question about whether the U.S. military has a contingency plan in case Iraq breaks up. "In the military, we don't embark on a weekend picnic without a plan and a backup plan," Dempsey wrote. "Our current plan contributes to an outcome in which Iraq will be able to achieve a government that represents all sects of the Iraqi people," he added.

The central government in Iraq must act in the best interests of all Iraqis and not just one portion, the chairman said. If this does not occur, he said, "then we will adapt, with the cooperation of our coalition and network of ground partners, to protect our security interests."

Dempsey added, "For now, we remain clear-eyed about the nature of the threat and continue to impose heavy costs on ISIL."

### **Concerns About Russia**

Questioners were also concerned about a resurgent Russia. Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and continued support for separatists in eastern Ukraine has raised concern globally.

"Make no mistake," Dempsey wrote. "We will not give up even an inch of NATO soil."

The U.S. commitments under NATO Article 5 -- an attack on one member is an attack on all -- are firm, Dempsey said. NATO's 28 member-nations "are in this together," he added.

### **U.S. Will Work With NATO, Other Allies**

Dempsey said the United States will work with other NATO members and other allies to reassure countries on the frontline with Russia -- the Baltic Republics, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania. U.S. assets, he added, will also assist in the new NATO Response Force, including the very high readiness joint task force. The JTF will be able to deploy within 48 hours of being ordered.

American service members will provide force-specific, unique capabilities, including intra-theater airlift, air-to-air refueling, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets, naval support ships and strategic airlift, the chairman said.

"If a crisis exceeds the capability of the VJTF, the U.S. is prepared and has committed to provide additional military forces -- including land forces -- to NATO efforts," Dempsey said.

---

### **3. Carter: NATO's Unity 'Critical' for Future Challenges (06-23-2015)**

By Terri Moon Cronk

NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force has the speed to respond to future crises such as those involving hybrid warfare, space and cyber activities that can evolve and unfold in Europe, Defense Secretary Ash Carter told reporters yesterday in Munster, Germany.

Carter spoke to members of the media following a multilateral meeting with German Defense Minister Ursula Von Der Leyen, Norwegian Defense Minister Ine Marie Eriksen Soreide and the Netherlands' Defense Minister Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert.

The VJTF is a component of NATO's Response Force that has responsibility for deploying troops to the Baltics in a crisis, according to DoD officials.



The secretary is in Europe this week to focus on the new security environment and NATO challenges stemming from Russia and the continent's southern flank.

Next week's NATO defense ministerial in Brussels -- his first since taking office four months ago -- will be Carter's final stop.

### **NATO Unity is Critical**

NATO's unity is critical going forward, Carter said.

"And that requires us to be attentive to the problems and challenges that affect all of the members," he said.

In addition to challenges from Russia, various regions of Europe and its southern tier in particular are also affected by factors such as instability in Northern Africa and the Middle East, the secretary said.

"There is more than one challenge for Europe," Carter said. "A unified Europe can do more than one thing at one time. That's required now ... and it's showing ... all the resolve and unity that it always has had over many decades."

In new domains such as cyber, Carter said, speed and agility of forces are important ingredients and are among a portfolio of steps NATO is taking "to ensure the security of all of its partners." Nondefense Security Dimension

Carter emphasized that the "new playbook" has a number of different dimensions.

"There's an important nondefense dimension to security today, both in respect of so-called hybrid warfare, but also in respect [to Europe's] southern tier," he said.

"That's something which is a whole-of-government ... kind of difficulty," the secretary noted.

"Where the habits of cooperation among the militaries, illustrated by NATO, can be and actually [are] matched with other agencies of government that are necessary to deal with those other challenges."

---

### **4. State's Kaidanow on 2014 Country Reports on Terrorism (06-19-2015)**

Today the State Department is issuing the Country Reports on Terrorism 2014, which fulfills an important congressional mandate and provides us also with an opportunity to review the state of terrorism worldwide and to find the nature and the scope of the terrorist threat. Doing so also allows us to assess our effectiveness and to best calibrate our strategy and our response.

Reviewing how involved and engaged countries are in the various aspects of their counterterrorism efforts, which comprises really the bulk of this report, helps us to make informed assessments about our priorities and where to place resources in our various capacity-building programs.

First, I would note that according to the statistical annex that was prepared by the University of Maryland, the number of terrorist attacks in 2014 increased 35 percent, and total fatalities increased 81 percent compared to 2013, largely due to activity in Iraq, Afghanistan and Nigeria.

More than 60 percent of all attacks took place in five countries: Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, and Nigeria. And 78 of all -- sorry, 78 percent of all fatalities due to terrorist attacks also took place in five countries: Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Syria.

The increase in total fatalities was in part a result of certain attacks that were exceptionally lethal. In 2014 there were 20 attacks that killed more than a hundred people, compared to only two such attacks in 2013.

While I cite these statistics, which are compiled by the University of Maryland and are not a U.S. product – U.S. Government product per se, I do want to stress again that in our view they don't provide the full context. Aggregate totals or numbers of attacks are not really a particularly useful metric for measuring the aims of the extremist groups or of our progress in preventing or countering those activities. So to that end, I'd like to talk a little bit more about the content of the report itself and some of the trends that we noted in 2014.

Despite significant blows to al-Qaida's leadership, weak or failed governance continued to provide an enabling environment for the emergence of extremist radicalism and violence, notably in Yemen, in Syria, Libya, Nigeria, and Iraq. We're deeply concerned about the continued evolution of the Islamic State of the Iraq in the Levant, ISIL; the emergence of self-proclaimed ISIL affiliates in Libya, Egypt, Nigeria, and elsewhere; and tens of thousands of foreign terrorist fighters who are exacerbating the violence in the Middle East, imposing a continued threat to their own home countries.

The ongoing civil war in Syria has been a spur to many of the worldwide terrorism events that we have witnessed. Since the report covers only calendar year 2014, it notes that the overall flow of foreign terrorist fighter travel to Syria was estimated at more than 16,000 foreign terrorist fighters from over 90 countries as of late December, which is a number that exceeds any similar flow of foreign terrorist fighters traveling to other countries in the last 20 years.

Many of the foreign terrorist fighters joined ISIL, which has seized contiguous territory in western Iraq and eastern Syria. Iraqi forces and the Counter-ISIL Coalition have dealt significant blows to ISIL, but it continues to control substantial territory.

As with many other terrorist groups worldwide, ISIL has brutally repressed the communities under its control and used ruthless methods of violence such as beheadings and crucifixions. Uniquely, however, it demonstrates a particular skill in employing new media tools to display its brutality both as a means to shock and to terrorize, but equally to propagandize and to attract new recruits. Boko Haram shares with ISIL a penchant for the use of these brutal tactics, which include stonings, indiscriminate mass casualty attacks, and systematic oppression of women and girls, including enslavement, torture, and rape.

Though AQ central leadership has indeed been weakened, the organization continues to serve as a focal point of inspiration for a worldwide network of affiliated groups, including al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, AQAP, a longstanding threat to Yemen, the region, and the United States; al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, AQIM; al-Nusrah Front; and al-Shabaab in East Africa.

We saw a rise in lone offender attacks, including in Ottawa and Quebec in October in Sydney and – sorry, and Sydney in December of 2014. In many cases, it was difficult to assess whether these attacks were directed or inspired by ISIL or AQ and its affiliates. These attacks may presage a new area in which centralized leadership of a terrorist organization matters less, group identity is more fluid, and violent extremist narratives focus on a wider range of alleged grievances and enemies. Enhanced border security measures among Western states since 9/11 have increased the difficulty for known or suspected terrorists to travel internationally. Therefore, groups like AQ and ISIL encourage lone actors residing in the West to carry out attacks on their behalf.



ISIL and AQ affiliates, including al-Nusrah Front, continue to use kidnapping for ransom operations, profits from the sales of looted antiquities, and other criminal activities to raise funds for operational purposes. Much of ISIL's funding, unlike the resources utilized by AQ and AQ-type organizations, do not come from external donations, but was internally gathered in Iraq and Syria. ISIL earned up to several million dollars per month through its various extortion networks, in criminal activity in the territory where it operated, including through oil smuggling. Some progress was made in 2014 in constraining ISIL's ability to earn money from the sale of smuggled oil as a result of the anti-ISIL coalition airstrikes that were conducted on ISIL-operated oil refineries. But the oil trade was not fully eradicated.

ISIL and AQ were not the only serious threats that confronted the United States and its allies. Iran continued to sponsor terrorist groups around the world, principally through its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Quds Force, the IRGC-QF – Quds. These groups included Lebanese Hizballah, several Iraqi Shia militant groups, Hamas, and the Palestine-Islamic Jihad. Addressing this evolving set of terrorist threats and the need to undertake efforts that span the range from security to rule of law to efficacy of governance and pushing back on terrorist messaging in order to effectively combat the growth of these emerging violent extremist groups requires an expanded approach to our counterterrorism engagement.

President Obama has emphasized repeatedly that we need to bring strong, capable, and diverse partners to the forefront and enlist their help in the mutually important endeavor of global counterterrorism. A successful approach to counterterrorism must therefore evolve around partnerships. The vital role that our partners play has become even clearer in the last year with the emergence of ISIL as the hugely destructive force in Iraq and Syria that I have already described. We've worked to build an effective counter-ISIL coalition, a coalition that is clearly crucial because the fight against ISIL is not one that the United States can or should pursue alone.

More than 60 partners are contributing to this effort, which is multifaceted in its goals, not only to stop ISIL's advances on the ground, but to combat the flow of foreign fighters, disrupt ISIL's financial resources, and counteract ISIL's messaging and undermine its appeal, among other objectives. I'd also highlight the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2178 in September of 2014 as a particularly significant step forward in international efforts to cooperate in preventing the flow of foreign terrorist fighters to and from conflict zones. The notion of finding and enabling strong partners, of course, is not new, or limited just to the counter-ISIL effort. And indeed, many of our most significant counterterrorism successes in the past have come as a result of working together with partners on elements ranging from intelligence to aviation security.

The United States needs partners who can not only contribute to military operations, but also conduct arrests, prosecutions, and incarceration of terrorists with their facilitation networks. Addressing terrorism in a rule of law framework with respect for human rights is critical both for ensuring the sustainability of their efforts and for preventing the rise of new forms of violent extremism. Multilateral entities such as the UN and the Global Counterterrorism Forum can also play a critical role in promoting good practices and mobilizing technical assistance in this regard. As we develop the partnerships needed to disrupt terrorist plots and degrade terrorist capabilities, we also need partners – both governmental and nongovernmental – who can help counter the spread of violent extremist recruitment and address the conditions that make communities susceptible to violent extremism. We must do more to address the cycle of violent extremism and transform the very environment from which these terrorist movements emerge.

That's why we are committed to enlarging our strategy in ways that address the underlying conditions conducive to the spread and not just the visible symptoms of violent extremism. This was a major theme of the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism earlier this year – some of you were there – which brought together 300 participants from over 65 countries representing national and local governments, civil society, the private sector, and multilateral organizations. The summit highlighted the especially vital role that partnering with civil society plays in our counterterrorism efforts.

In addition to counterterrorism assistance rendered in the fields of rule of law and countering recruitment, we provide a wide array of expertise and programmatic support for our partners to help them identify and disrupt the financing of terrorism, strengthen aviation and border security, and sharpen their law enforcement and crisis response tools to respond to the terrorist threat. The terrorism challenges that we face continue to evolve at a rapid pace, and we cannot predict with precision what the landscape will look like one decade or even really a year from now. But we believe strongly we can best protect America's interests and its people over the long run by engaging in robust diplomacy, expanding our partnerships, building bilateral and regional capabilities, and promoting holistic and rule-of-law based approaches to counter terrorism and violent extremism. This remains our program of action over the months ahead.

*The full text of the U.S. Department of State's 2014 Country Reports on Terrorism is available [here](http://www.state.gov/j/ct).  
<http://www.state.gov/j/ct>*

---

## **5. Special Report: Operation Atlantic Resolve (06-19-2015)**

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter travels to Germany, Estonia and Belgium for meetings with European defense ministers and to participate in his first NATO Ministerial as defense secretary. Carter intends to further demonstrate continued U.S. commitment to regional security, and also hear from U.S. service members stationed in Europe. Learn more in this Defense.gov special report, Operation Atlantic Resolve: [http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0514\\_atlanticresolve/](http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0514_atlanticresolve/)

---

## **6. Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism 2015 Plenary Meeting: Joint Co-Chair Statement (06-17-2015)**

Partner nations and official observers of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) gathered in Helsinki, Finland, June 16-17, 2015, for the GICNT's 9th senior-level Plenary Meeting. Since it was launched in 2006, the GICNT has grown into a partnership of 86 nations and 5 official observers committed to strengthening global capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to nuclear terrorism. The Plenary Meeting underscored the GICNT's unique ability to bring together policy, technical, and operational experts to enhance partners' capabilities to address difficult and emerging nuclear security challenges.

The meeting opened with host welcome remarks by Ambassador Klaus Korhonen, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Foreign Minister Timo Soini gave the keynote address on behalf of Finland.

The Russian Federation and United States were selected as Co-Chairs of the GICNT for the term 2015-2019. The Co-Chairs thanked all GICNT partner nations and official observers for their continued commitment to advancing the GICNT's mission and welcomed Iraq as a new partner and

the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) as a new official observer. The Co-Chairs also recognized the Republic of Korea (ROK) for its leadership as Implementation and Assessment Group (IAG) Coordinator. In this capacity, the ROK played a critical role in implementing the GICNT strategy announced at the 2013 Plenary Meeting in Mexico City, which called for an increase in practical, topically- and regionally-focused activities, such as workshops and exercises.

On behalf of all participants, the Co-Chairs thanked the Government of Finland for hosting the 2015 Plenary Meeting. The Co-Chairs also recognized Finland's extensive leadership and commitment to nuclear security, exemplified by the hosting of the GICNT nuclear detection exercise, "Northern Lights," earlier this year.

For more information about ISN, please visit our website: <http://www.state.gov/t/isn/>

---

## **7. U.S.-Republic of Korea (R.O.K.) Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation** (06-16-2015)

### Fact Sheet

New 123 Agreement would Strengthen the U.S.-ROK Bilateral Strategic Relationship and Enhances Cooperation for the Long Term

The United States and the Republic of Korea have signed a successor agreement for civil nuclear cooperation, also known as a "123 Agreement."

The United States and the ROK have had a strong partnership in the field of peaceful nuclear cooperation for more than half a century, and the United States is pleased that the ROK has become one of the world's leading nations in the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The agreement would enhance the strategic relationship between the United States and the ROK across the spectrum of political, economic, energy, science, and technology issues.

The agreement would establish a new standing, High-Level Bilateral Commission for our two governments to work together to advance mutual objectives such as addressing spent fuel management, an assured stable fuel supply, nuclear security, and enhancing cooperation between the U.S. and ROK nuclear industries.

The new Commission would allow for deepened cooperation and more regular interaction between our two governments on the state of nuclear energy in both countries and allow us to account for new developments in technology, spent fuel management, security, and safety.

The agreement would reinforce the importance of our ongoing Joint Fuel Cycle Study to review and identify appropriate options for addressing spent fuel management challenges, and facilitate cooperation on research and development (R&D) in this context, including R&D at specified facilities on the use of electrochemical reduction.

The new agreement also would provide the ROK with consent to produce radioisotopes for medical and research purposes, as well as to conduct examination of irradiated fuel rods using U.S.-obligated material.

The agreement would allow for the continuation and expansion of our robust and mutually beneficial trade relationship.

For example, the United States supplies enrichment services to the ROK to support its fabrication of nuclear fuel, and the ROK supplies the United States with significant reactor components such as pressure vessels.

Due to this trade relationship, the contract between the ROK and the United Arab Emirates to build four reactors has already brought hundreds of new jobs and approximately \$2 billion in additional revenue to U.S. nuclear suppliers.

The agreement would allow this type of cooperation to continue and flourish in the future.

The agreement would be fully reciprocal, requiring the United States to undertake most of the same obligations as the ROK. The only exceptions relate to different obligations that each country has under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

#### The New 123 Agreement Would Strengthen Nonproliferation Cooperation between the United States and the Republic of Korea

Like all our 123 agreements, this agreement contains essential provisions related to nonproliferation and nuclear security, and would thereby enhance the global nuclear nonproliferation regime.

The terms of the U.S.-ROK 123 agreement strongly reaffirm the two governments' shared commitment to nonproliferation as the cornerstone of their nuclear cooperation relationship.

The ROK has a strong track record on nonproliferation and the ROK has consistently reiterated its commitment to nonproliferation. It has been an extremely active partner with the United States across a wide breadth of bilateral and multilateral activities designed to ensure the implementation of the highest standards of safety, security, and nonproliferation worldwide.

The agreement would update the nonproliferation conditions from the prior agreement and fully meet the nonproliferation requirements of Section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended by the 1978 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act (NNPA).

The agreement would provide for the cooperation between the United States and the ROK to be subject to the relevant IAEA safeguards requirements, assurance that all activities under the agreement will be for peaceful purposes only, and express reciprocal consent rights over any retransfers or subsequent reprocessing or enrichment of material subject to the agreement.

#### The ROK Is a Strong Nonproliferation Partner

The ROK is one of the United States' strongest partners on nonproliferation and has consistently reiterated its commitment to nonproliferation.

It is a member of the four multilateral nonproliferation regimes (Missile Technology Control Regime, Wassenaar Arrangement, Australia Group, and Nuclear Suppliers Group, for which it served as Chair in 2003-2004 and will do so again in 2016-17) and recently completed its term as chair of the Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.

The ROK became a State Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on April 23, 1975, and has in force a comprehensive safeguards agreement and additional protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The ROK has also demonstrated its commitment to nuclear security and addressing the threat of nuclear terrorism, including through hosting the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit and being an active contributor to the Summit process, and through its leadership in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

The ROK has been an active participant in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) since 2009, having hosted regional and global meetings and two operational exercises. It has also conducted outreach to states that have not yet endorsed PSI.

The ROK has been a consistent advocate of nonproliferation in the IAEA Board of Governors, including support for strengthening safeguards and calling to account Iran and Syria for violations of their safeguards obligations.

The ROK has also been a strong and close partner in addressing the security and proliferation threat posed by North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, including at the IAEA and the UN Security Council. The United States and the ROK continue to cooperate closely in our shared objective to achieve North Korea's complete, irreversible and verifiable denuclearization and to bring North Korea into compliance with its commitments under the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and its obligations under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

---

## **8. Iraqis get more help to combat Daesh (06-15-2015)**

Daesh in Iraq just got some bad news.

“To improve the capabilities and effectiveness of partners on the ground, [President Obama] authorized deployment of up to 450 additional U.S. military personnel to train, advise and assist Iraqi security forces at Taqaddum military base in eastern Anbar province,” [White House spokesman Josh Earnest said June 10.](#)

The new advisers will help build the capacity of Iraqi forces, including local tribal fighters, to plan, lead and conduct operations against Daesh in eastern Anbar province. The advisers at Taqaddum will complement U.S. and coalition trainers currently at four other sites in Iraq.

U.S. military and coalition trainers already have trained 9,000 Iraqi troops. Another 3,000 troops are now in training.

The decision to add a U.S. military presence at Taqaddum will directly support the plan endorsed by Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's Cabinet May 19 for the liberation of Anbar province.

The campaign against Daesh “works best when we have a capable partner that we are supporting on the ground, and where Iraqis are able to pursue an inclusive approach to their politics and their efforts to provide for the security of the Iraqi people,” [White House adviser Ben Rhodes told reporters.](#)

Iraqi troops with coalition support have proven they can perform well on the battlefield, Earnest said [at a press briefing.](#)

It's becoming clear “that the kind of training that these Iraqi security forces are getting from the United States and our coalition partners is having a positive impact in their performance on the battlefield,” Earnest said. “And that's a good thing.”

Obama also directed expedited delivery of essential equipment and materiel to Iraqi forces, including Sunni tribes, in coordination with the government of Iraq.

The United States reaffirmed support for Prime Minister Abadi and other Iraqi leaders in building an inclusive government that offers all of Iraq's diverse communities a say in determining the country's future.



The [United States is leading more than 60 partners](#) in a global coalition to defeat Daesh in Iraq and Syria.

---

#### **[9. Ukraine remains resilient and resolute](#) (06-12-2015)**

The world is closely watching what is happening in Ukraine. Some are inspired as Ukraine builds a democracy from the grass roots up, while others are hoping the [reform movement](#) that began in 2014 will fail, said U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power. [Speaking in Kyiv June 11](#), Power told her Ukrainian audience to “consider this: Everyone who has bet against you so far has been proven wrong.”

Reminding listeners that the United States [has stood in solidarity](#) with the Ukrainian people since the 2014 protests in Kyiv’s central Independence Square — known as the Maidan — sparked the country’s democratic movement, she said Ukraine’s reform aspirations pose “an existential threat” to Russia’s [model of government](#).

“It is this idea — that the people can use their voice to hold their leaders accountable — that is so threatening to the autocratic government in Russia. And it is the reason the Russian government is working so desperately to sabotage your efforts at reform,” she said.

“But Russia made a very serious miscalculation: It underestimated your resilience and your willingness to unite to help your fellow citizens. And it underestimated the tenacity of your commitment to changing the system,” she said.

Power said too often people talk about what is happening in Ukraine as a [global or regional conflict](#), while leaving the Ukrainian people themselves and the “willingness to fight for your voice” out of the story.

“You, Ukraine, are standing tall for your freedom. And if you stand tall together — no kleptocrat, no oligarch, and no foreign power can stop you.”

---

#### **[10. G7 countries united on keeping nuclear weapons from Iran](#) (06-12-2015)**

“Beyond Europe, we discussed the negotiations over Iran’s nuclear program, and we remain united heading into the final stages of the talks,” Obama said.

In April, negotiators from the P5+1 countries (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany) [reached a political understanding](#) with Iran over its nuclear program.

Talks continue, aimed at reaching a final deal by June 30.

The [G7 Leaders’ Declaration](#) welcomes the political understanding of the [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action](#) reached on April 2 and supports efforts to reach a comprehensive solution by June 30 that ensures Iran does not acquire a nuclear weapon.

“We call on Iran to cooperate fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency on verification of Iran’s nuclear activities and to address all outstanding issues, including those relating to possible military dimensions,” the declaration says. “We urge Iran to respect the human rights of its citizens and to contribute constructively to regional stability.”



In remarks to the American Jewish Committee's Global Forum in Washington, Deputy Secretary of State [Antony Blinken said](#) the United States believes the best way to prevent Iran from having a nuclear weapon is with a verified, negotiated agreement.

"The United States and Israel share an absolute conviction that Iran must not, under any circumstances, be allowed to obtain a nuclear weapon," Blinken said. "When it comes to that core strategic goal, there is not an inch of daylight between the United States and Israel."

---

### **11. Biden's Meetings with Iraqi Speaker Salim al-Jabouri (06-12-2015)**

President Obama dropped by a meeting today at the White House with Vice President Biden and Salim al-Jabouri, Speaker of Iraq's Council of Representatives. President Obama and Vice President Biden commended Speaker al-Jabouri for his leadership in parliament and his efforts to bolster Iraq's democracy, federalism, and national unity. They reaffirmed the enduring partnership between both countries and discussed ongoing U.S. and Iraqi efforts to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL, including the importance of mobilizing local tribal fighters in support of the Iraqi government's Anbar liberation plan. President Obama and Vice President Biden reaffirmed the United States' commitment to supporting Iraq in its fight against ISIL and the urgency of humanitarian assistance for Iraq's internally-displaced citizens. Speaker al-Jabouri thanked the United States for its humanitarian contribution in response to the UN appeal for Iraq.

The Vice President also announced an additional \$9 million in humanitarian assistance for Iraq, bringing the U.S. total in humanitarian assistance to \$416 million since 2014. Both sides agreed on the importance of passing key legislation to strengthen national unity and to promote reconciliation for all Iraqi citizens.

Earlier this morning, the Vice President hosted Speaker al-Jabouri at the Naval Observatory for breakfast. The Vice President and Speaker al-Jabouri discussed the importance of passing key legislation to further strengthen Iraqi unity and to accelerate the mobilization, training, and integration of local tribal fighters against ISIL. Both leaders committed to ensuring the success of ongoing efforts to defeat ISIL and to bolstering a democratic, united, and federal Iraq to ensure prosperity for all Iraqi citizens.

---

### **12. Iraq Troop Increase Part of Broader Coalition Strategy (06-12-2015)**

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.

The recently announced presidential authorization of up to 450 additional U.S. troops deploying to Iraq is just one part of the 60-nation coalition's support to the country, a U.S. Central Command spokesman said today.

During a telephonic call with Pentagon reporters, Air Force Col. Patrick Ryder discussed the modest troop increase deploying to Taqaddum Air Base and provided operational highlights of the military campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. 'Improving and Refining'

"Taqaddum is just one part of the coalition's broader effort," Ryder said, "to support and enable Iraq to build up the capacity of their forces on the ground."

He added, “As previously stated, these forces will serve in a noncombat, advise-and-assist role and will be there to assist the planning, integration and support of Iraqi security forces and tribal forces as they fight to retain territory in Anbar province.”

Ryder emphasized coalition efforts at Taqaddum, while complementary to the four building partner capacity sites, will be unique as it partners with the Anbar Operations Center and focuses on “improving and refining” military functions.

It will focus on functions such as logistics, intelligence gathering, force protection and operations planning, he said, as well as enhancing interoperability.

“By partnering coalition subject-matter experts with their ISF counterparts at Taqaddum,” Ryder said, “we’ll enhance Iraqi forces’ operational planning and execution capabilities, which ultimately will contribute to success on the battlefield.”

The use of Taqaddum Air Base, he said, will provide a closer functional logistical hub for equipping and sustaining of Iraqi security personnel in their fight against ISIL in Anbar province.

#### Operational Updates

Elsewhere in the region, Ryder said Kurdish forces in northern Iraq continue to maintain a “solid” defensive line against ISIL while anti-ISIL forces in northeastern Syria continue to make “significant” progress as they retake territory from the enemy.

“Near Beiji,” he said, “ISF and [popular mobilization forces] are conducting clearing operations in the southern part of the city [and] making some forward progress, although we assess the city as still contested.”

Similarly, Ryder said the Beiji Oil Refinery also remains contested, and fighting continues there as well as near Ramadi where Iraqi security forces continue to conduct shaping operations.

#### Chiefs of Defense Meeting

Ryder concluded by discussing the Chiefs of Defense Ministers meeting which Centcom Commander Army Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, co-hosted this week in Southwest Asia.

“Twenty-nine chiefs of defense, representing the counter-ISIL coalition, participated in that meeting,” he said. “The discussions focused on the progress being made with a respect to the counter-ISIL campaign, and the partner nations reaffirmed their commitment to do whatever is required to defeat this common enemy.”

The strength of this campaign, Ryder said, is the 60-nation counter-ISIL coalition which “clearly” demonstrated its continued commitment at the conference this week.